GURVICH DENIES DA THEFT, COUNT

T P 373 0118 Statement on JFK Probe File Is Given

Private investigator William Gurvich said Friday afternoon "I have never stolen anything in my life and Mr. Garrison knows it."

Thursday District Attorney Jim Garrison charged his former chief aide with theft of property from his office he valued at \$19.

Gurvich said: "Yesteday Mr. Jim Garrison saw fit to charge me with theft of property he valued at \$19—one of the copies of the assassination probe file.

"Nine months ago I stated publicly and under oath that I had possession of this file," Gurvich said.

After stating that he had never stolen anything in his life, Gurvich said: "Perhaps the delay in bringing such an absurd charge is Garrison's belated awareness that the so-called "master file" on the Kennedy probe isn't worth more than \$19.

"I just happen to be one of the citizens who disagrees with Garrison," he said. "My lawyers do not wish me to discuss this case and this is all I have to say about it," Gurvich added,

Garrison's signature was on the bill of information filed in the office of the clerk of criminal district court.

It charged that Gurvich "committed a theft of property of the value of nineteen (\$19) dollars in United States currency belonging to the Orleans Parish district attorney's office."